The Kabul Times Daily
www.thekabultimes.com twitter.com/thekabultimes info@thekabultimes.com facebook.com/thekabultimes
Founded in 1962
Hoot 15-1403 Wednesday 05 March 2025 INo: 291-Vol: LXII

Kabul 07° Sunny | Kandahar 18° Cloudy | Herat 16° Cloudy | Jalalabad 21° Partly cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 07° Sunny | Bamyan -9° Sunny

UNAMA mission not effective in Afghanistan, Mujahid



KABUL: Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate said Tuesday that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has not been effective in the country.

Referring to the extension of the UNAMA in the country, Mujahid said: "The organization has consistently tried to create concerns among the people and portray a negative image of Afghanistan on the international stage."

The UNAMA's reports have ignored the achievements and developments of the Islamic Emirate in various fields and have only focused on negative aspects.

This comes after the United Nations Security Council said Monday in a statement that it is expected to renew the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The Kabul Times

Iranian authority hails Islamic Emirate for banning poppy cultivation

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund Hamkar, the Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs for Counter-Narcotics and his accompanying delegation held a meeting with Iran's deputy interior minister Ali-Akbar Pour-Jamshidian and discussed joint countering drugs, the ministry said in a statement the other day.



Ali-Akbar Pour-Jamshidian praised Afghanistan for banning the cultivation, buying, and selling of drugs in the country but asked Kabul to be more decisive in the fight against narcotics.

Highlighting that Iran has long had close relations with Afghanistan and that Tehran aims to foster cooperation and interactions between the two countries to resolve issues.

He also discussed the issue of water rights, and said that since the two sides are willing to address challenges, "we can solve this problem, which can contribute to enhancing collaborations in security and economy sectors."

He also proposed the expansion of cooperation between Iranian and Afghan anti-narcotics police and the anti-narcotics force (ANF) of Pakistan to combat drug trafficking more effectively.

"The country can share its experiences and expertise with Afghanistan," he added.

Meanwhile, Hamkar said that "Over the past 45 years, there has been no limitation on poppy cultivation and buying and selling narcotics, but it has changed now," Hamkar said adding that the two countries can enhance cooperation by replacing poppy cultivation.

The Kabul Times

The Kabul Times celebrates 63 years in a gathering of its old and new members



KABUL: Sixty-three years ago, in the month of Hoot 1341 (March 1963), Afghanistan witnessed the launch of its first English-language newspaper, The Kabul Times. The newspaper was established with the goal of presenting Afghanistan's political, economic, cultural, and social situation to international audience in English. The Kabul Times is not only the oldest English-language publication in Afghanistan but has also borne witness to various political changes, wars, and developments throughout its history. To celebrate The Kabul Times' 63-year journey, dozens of former and current employees gathered yesterday at the newspaper's office. The gathering was inaugurated by The Kabul Times' Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal, who welcomed all attendees, appreciated the tireless efforts of the staff, and congratulated them on the newspaper's 63-year milestone.

See P4

Technical Committee approves draft on salt and minerals



KABUL: A draft policy on salt and the processing and export of mineral materials has been approved in the meeting of the Technical Committee of the Economic Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs said Tuesday.

According to the statement, the activation of the existing cold storage facility at Shorab Civil Airport in Helmand province was also discussed in the meeting.

The relevant ministries were instructed to include the Ministry of Water and Energy in these draft policies and submit them to the Economic Commission for final decision-making.

Regarding the activation of the cold storage facility at Shorab Civil Airport in Helmand province, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce was instructed to select a qualified company for the activation of the facility and submit the contract to the Economic Commission for approval.

The Kabul Times

Hundreds of widows, orphans receive assistance in Nangarhar, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled Affairs said the other day in a statement that it has distributed food supplies to 600 widows and orphans as part of its Ramadan aid initiative in Nangarhar province.



The aid packages included eight essential food items to support vulnerable families during the holy month of Ramadan, the statement said.

During the distribution process, Mohammad Saber Zwak, the head of the Martyrs and Disabled Affairs Directorate in Nangarhar, expressed his gratitude to the charitable organization for their generous support. The ministry has been committed to providing the widows and orphans with essential assistance across the country.

The Kabul Times

Kabul Municipality expropriates 127 properties to expand road

KABUL: The Kabul Municipality said the other day that it has started the expropriation and demolition of 127 properties in the Joy-e-Shir area of the capital.



Nematullah Barakzai, a representative of the Kabul Municipality, stated that the purpose of this initiative is to expand the Joy-e-Shir to Pul-e-Artal and reduce congestion in the Zirzameeni area in Deh Afghanan.

"With the construction of this road, a major congestion issue in the Zirzameeni area will be resolved," he said, adding that during the road construction, 127 properties will be expropriated, and the removal of obstacles is already underway.

According to Kabul Municipality, the Joy-e-Shir is considered one of the key infrastructure projects, extending over 1,869 meters in length.

The Joy-e-Shir expansion project will officially begin once all obstacles are removed, and the expropriation process is completed.

The Kabul Times

Baghlan sugar factory resumes operation after years of delay, official

PUL-E-KHUMRI: Baghlan sugar factory resumed operation after years of delay, the factory's CEO Najibullah Durandish said the other day. The factory resumed work after extensive renovation and reconstruction efforts, he said, adding that 60 individuals have been hired directly, with 300 more employed indirectly since the factory resumed activities. "The Baghlan sugar factory has the capacity to produce 700 to 800 tons of sugar per 24-hour period," he said.



It should be said that the Islamic Emirate has undertaken the reconstruction of numerous large factories that were damaged during the conflicts of the past decades.

The Kabul Times

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash Shiabani, Ali and Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Share cooperation for security instead of closing borders

It is clear that neighboring Pakistan is currently facing fierce battle and opposition in some of its territories, notably Pashtun and Baloch areas.

Of course, these wars and oppositions started soon after the creation of Pakistan, but following the U.S. and its NATO allies invasion of Afghanistan, using Pakistani military centers and air bases and receiving intelligence and other facilities in the neighboring country, they closed the entire Durand Line with trenches, barbed wire and walls, and frequently closed the way all communication including trade and transit between the two countries.

The measure by the then-Pakistani politicians faced hatred of the people, which reached severe mass confrontations.

As a result, the Pakistani military faced a massive civil war inside their own country, but their warplanes bombed several villages along the two countries' shared border and inside Afghanistan. The Pakistani authorities balmed Afghanistan for harboring militants and sending them to launch attacks on Pakistani forces, while the Islamic Emirate has time and again denied such claims and asked the neighboring country for bringing evidence about the presence of militant groups in Afghanistan if they are true in their claim, but they failed.

They resorted to the forced deportation of Afghan refugees from their country under the pretext of having no migration documents or cooperating with anti-security elements in Pakistan. This is while Afghanistan is still a victim of the so-called IS (Daesh) insurgents who claimed responsibility for many attacks that martyred many innocent people, including religious scholars.

So, the current Pakistani politicians should change their policy and not try to defame Afghanistan as the hub for terrorists as the entire world countries have now realized the fact that the Islamic Emirate has fought and is fighting all types of terrorist and militant groups whenever reported.

Instead of trying to disturb the public minds with their false claim that Afghanistan is a safe haven for militants, Islamabad should join hands with Kabul to honestly combat insurgents and all terror elements along the two countries' borders and have both countries' nations live in peace and security.

Key responsibilities of the government in Ramadan

Part II

Additionally, public awareness and increasing knowledge about consumer rights and market violations play a crucial role in reducing misconduct and enhancing public oversight.

One of the most fundamental duties of the state, alongside welcoming and upholding religious rituals during Ramadan, is the need for strict government supervision over markets and prices.

Experience has shown that during this month, the prices of food items rise sharply. Government oversight can prevent potential exploitation and unreasonable price increases.

Ensuring fairness and providing services in this month is of great importance because, given the increased demand for specific goods such as food, there is a high probability of unfair price hikes.

To maintain social order and prevent financial pressure on low-income families, the state must closely monitor prices.

This is especially critical in a country like Afghanistan, where many people have limited access to essential food items and basic goods.

One of the government's responsibilities is to combat hoarding.

Some individuals and companies may, due to the increased demand during Ramadan, engage in hoarding essential goods.

Government supervision can prevent such actions and ensure the availability of goods in the market.

Regular inspections and periodic controls can help the government detect violations in a timely manner and prevent their occurrence.

These measures not only help maintain public access to goods but also prevent sudden price hikes.

Additionally, the state must oversee the quality of goods available in the market to prevent the entry of unauthorized and low-quality products.

This measure helps safeguard public health and boosts consumer confidence.



If low-quality and unauthorized products make their way into the market, they could lead to health problems and public dissatisfaction.

Strict monitoring of product quality can reduce these issues and increase public trust.

The government can also prevent unreasonable price increases by setting price ceilings for essential goods and imposing heavy fines on violators.

Conducting regular and surprise inspections of markets and shops by government institutions, particularly the municipality, can also help detect and prevent violations.

This approach can stabilize the market and prevent sudden price fluctuations. Therefore, setting and regulating prices is considered one of the state's key supervisory tools.

Furthermore, the government can strengthen the market monitoring and control process through cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local civil institutions.

Such collaborations can help establish local monitoring networks and enhance community capacity in dealing with market violations and exploitation.

Additionally, the state can benefit from the successful experiences of other countries in this regard and adopt appropriate policies and strategies. Establishing support systems for low-income and vulnerable families can help reduce economic pressures during Ramadan.

It should not be forgotten that the state plays the role of a guardian for its citizens. The government can support families struggling to meet their basic needs by providing financial aid, food packages, and special assistance programs.

These measures can contribute to enhancing public welfare and strengthening social solidarity during this sacred month.

Additionally, public awareness and increasing knowledge about consumer rights and market violations play a crucial role in reducing misconduct and enhancing public oversight.

Effective and strict government supervision of the market during Ramadan not only prevents violations and unreasonable price hikes but also helps maintain economic order in society and ensures the quality of goods.

Such supervision ensures that all members of society can welcome this holy month with greater confidence and peace of mind and fully benefit from its blessings.

Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi



Afghanistan: Humanitarian needs must take priority

Reduction in aid poses a severe threat to the lives of women and children in Afghanistan; therefore, the international community and humanitarian organizations are urged that humanitarian needs must take priority.

Without sufficient funding, the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan could reach unprecedented levels.

The World Food Program has recently called for urgent international attention and funding to address the critical food shortages and prevent the escalation of the crisis in the country.

Meanwhile, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has estimated that 22.9 million people, including 12 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in 2025.



In a report released early this week, UNICEF stated: "It is projected that in 2025, 22.9 million people, including 12 million children, will need humanitarian aid in Afghanistan."

The report said climate change and natural disasters had intensified humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, further worsening living conditions for the people.

Additionally, UNICEF noted the return of Afghan refugees from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan had significantly increased the demand for humanitarian aid.

However, the UN agency did not specify the exact amount of funding required to assist the affected population.

Earlier in the week, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported 14.8 million Afghans were currently facing food insecurity in the country.

This comes as the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan underscores the need for a coordinated international response to ensure that vulnerable populations, especially women and children, receive the aid they desperately need.

Without immediate action and sufficient funding, Afghanistan faces the risk of an even greater catastrophe, with millions of lives at stake and long-term consequences for the region's stability.

It has been more than three years since Afghanistan's foreign assets have been frozen by the United States.

When the Islamic Emirate took over the country in mid-August 2021, Afghanistan had $7 billion in foreign currency reserves with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The assets, which belong to the people of Afghanistan, were frozen.

Afghanistan had roughly $9 billion in reserves held in banks across the U.S. and Europe, which were immediately frozen with the Islamic Emirate takeover.

About $500 million belonging to private account holders in Afghan banks was also frozen.

Afghanistan is facing a severe humanitarian and economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by the delay in release of foreign currency reserves, which Da Afghanistan Bank needs to carry out essential central banking functions like maintaining stable exchange rates and prices.

Banks play a crucial role in lending money to businesses and individuals who want to invest in capital or trade.

And this can be done only when there's enough liquidity in the banking system.

The United States has been repeatedly urged to release Afghanistan's foreign assets.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), as well as the people of Afghanistan, have repeatedly asked the United States to release the frozen assets of Afghanistan's central bank.

It is worth mentioning that over the past three years, Afghanistan has faced an escalating humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations estimating that over 24 million people currently require humanitarian assistance.

The Islamic Emirate, along with international organizations, are working to address the escalating humanitarian crisis by implementing various programs that are underway in the country.

Sayed Sharif

Establishment of permanent calligraphy exhibition in Herat's Ikhtiyaruddin Castle

In a bid to support and promote the art of calligraphy in Herat, a permanent exhibition of this art has been opened in Ikhtiyaruddin Castle in the province.

Calligraphy panels with Islamic scripts have been hung on the mudbrick walls of the Ikhtyaruddin Fortress, connecting the past with the present.



Meanwhile, artists in Herat are hopeful that this exhibition will introduce their artistic creations to the world and provide opportunities for their sale.

"This exhibition is permanent. Previous exhibitions lasted only a week, after which each master would take their works back home. If, like other international exhibitions in many countries, these artistic works were published in book form and made available to the public, they would be taken into homes and preserved.

Our request to the government is to support this initiative by publishing the works of masters in book form and making them accessible to people," Abdul Jalil Tawana, head of the Herat Calligraphers and Calligraphy Association, told TOLOnews.

"When visitors encounter different Islamic scripts and study these works, they develop an interest in them, which may lead them to purchase these pieces and, in a way, support the artists," Shamsuddin Nurizadeh, a calligraphy master, told TOLOnews.

"The Herat school of calligraphy existed here; during the Timurid era and even before that, Herat was one of the Islamic world's scientific and cultural centers. Our effort is to preserve this Islamic cultural heritage," said Ghulam Yahya Herawi, another calligraphy master in Herat.

The permanent exhibition of Islamic calligraphy panels, displayed within the mudbrick walls of the Ikhtiyaruddin Castle, showcases the splendor and beauty of calligraphy.

Officials from the Herat Directorate of Information and Culture assure that they are working to foster the growth of calligraphy and establish a sustainable foundation for supporting artists in this field.

Hamidullah Ghayasi, head of culture and arts at the Herat Directorate of Information and Culture, stated with confidence: "We will provide any assistance within our capacity to calligraphy artists and continue our strong support."

From the depths of Herat's rich history, styles of calligraphy have emerged that are now recognized as symbols of beauty and cultural identity in many neighboring countries and across the region. Nastaliq, Shekasteh Nasta¿lîq, Naskh, and Kufic—these four pillars of Islamic calligraphy have deep roots in Herat's soil, flowing onto paper for centuries and continuing to this day.

Monitoring Desk: Fida Mohammad

How does fasting affect your body and mind?

Ramadan is a time for worship, devotion and reflection on the deeper meaning of life. Every year, millions of Muslims observe fast from dawn to dusk.

Scientific studies suggest that fasting boosts health and promotes longevity.

The Holy Quran points out its moral, social and spiritual benefits in one word, Taqwa, piety but doesn't exclude its bodily benefits.



The first few days of the fasting months are the hardest for everybody.

Technically, the body is in a normal state for the first eight hours after a fast, as it is when the food in the stomach is completely digested.

After this, the human body begins to use the glucose stored in the liver and muscles. When it is over, the body then uses the glucose obtained from the breakdown of fat.

By using the stored fat in the body as food, a person loses weight, lowers cholesterol levels in the body, and reduces the risk of diabetes.

However, due to the decrease in sugar levels in the body, a person feels weak and tired. Dizziness, headaches, nausea, or bad breath may also accompany this.

This is when severe hunger is felt.

After a week, when the body gets used to fasting, it prepares glucose by burning fat, and therefore, it is necessary to drink a lot of water after breaking the fast, because during fasting, dehydration or dehydration can occur due to sweating if the weather is warm or hot.

In such a situation, energy-rich or fatty foods should be included in the diet. In addition, the diet should contain adequate amounts of meat, salt, and water.

In the third phase, the body gets used to fasting and the human body returns to its normal state.

There are other benefits besides this as during the third phase, the muscles function at full strength, the power of memory and concentration increases, and more energy is accumulated in the body.

If fasting continues for days, the body starts to atrophy the muscles, but during fasting, the body does not do this because the hunger ends at the end of the day.

Besides all these benefits, fasting builds self-control and discipline, gives the stomach a break from the laborious job of digestion and excretion, helps us to think about our eating habits, aids in expelling toxins – detoxifies the body, and improves our mental and bodily well-being.

Also, there are other positive impacts of fasting on different organs of the body.

For example, fasting increases insulin sensitivity, decreases insulin resistance, lowers blood glucose levels, reprograms Tcell populations, damping down autoimmunity and decreases in inflammatory cytokines.

As fat is used for energy in the absence of incoming dietary calories, blood lipid levels go down and reduction in cholesterol leads to a decrease in blood pressure.

Besides, fasting results in improved memory, learning and neurogenesis in rodents and has been shown to repair some neurons, and the most important, by making tumor cells more susceptible to chemotherapeutic agents while protecting healthy cells from the treatment's toxicity, intermittent fasting is showing promise in slowing the progression of breast cancers and melanoma in mice.

Whilst fasting acts as a purifier and decontaminator of the body and mind, if we couple it with giving Zakat in this month, it will multiply its impact.

The payment of the annual Zakat is a purifier.

Many people take advantage of this and pay Zakat in Ramadan.

So, each Muslim is requested to pay Zakat during the course of the month of Ramadan. **Mukhtar Safi**

Turabi in Uruzgan to assess damages caused by recent floods



KABUL: Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the Head of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) visited Uruzgan province to assess the damage caused by recent floods, ANDMA said in a statement Tuesday. He inspected several affected regions, including Sarkhom, Balah, Mashinaw, Chora, and Wand, and emphasized the importance of understanding the local situation and gathering suggestions from the community to address their needs effectively. Mullah Turabi assured the residents that their feedback would be communicated to the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. He expressed his commitment to advocating for appropriate solutions to the challenges faced by the affected communities.

The Kabul Times

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY
Hoot 15-1403 Wednesday 05 March 2025 INo: 291-Vol: LXII

USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.50	93.61	842	252	77.35	01.32	19.92



National athletes begin receiving allowance payments



The General Directorate of Sports initiated the payment process for national athletes' allowances on Tuesday. This initiative aims to support athletes across various disciplines by providing financial assistance for their training and participation in competitions.

The payment process covers 52 different sports disciplines and benefits a total of 33,200 national team athletes. This significant step is expected to enhance the well-being of athletes and encourage greater dedication to their respective sports.

On the first day of distribution, athletes from skiing, powerlifting, Vovinam, Zurkhaneh sports, and Full-Combat received their payments. These sports, which require high levels of skill, training, and discipline, have produced some of the country's most dedicated athletes. The financial support is intended to ease their challenges, allowing them to focus on their training without financial burdens. The initiative highlights the government's commitment to strengthening the sports sector and supporting national athletes. By ensuring financial support, authorities hope to improve the country's sports performance and enable athletes to compete more effectively on international platforms.

This payment process will continue in the coming days, ensuring that all athletes across the 52 sports disciplines receive their allowances. The move has been widely welcomed by the sports community, as it provides much-needed financial relief and recognizes the hard work and dedication of national team members.

Sports officials emphasized the importance of sustaining such initiatives to develop sports at both national and international levels. The General Directorate of Sports is expected to monitor the distribution process to ensure fairness and efficiency.

This step marks a positive development for the country's sports sector, reinforcing the role of athletes and their contributions to national pride and international representation.

The Kabul Times

Ittihad triumphs as champions in Herat Futsal League



The Herat Provincial Directorate of Physical Education and Sports successfully concluded the Futsal League in Ghoryan district, where six teams competed for the championship title. After weeks of intense matches, Ittihad emerged as the champion of the tournament.

In a highly competitive league, Ittihad secured the highest points, claiming the first position. Shahid Taheri and Etefaq Nowin finished as the second and third-place winners, respectively. The league showcased the skills and dedication of young futsal players in Herat, highlighting the growing popularity of the sport in the region.

Individual awards were also presented to outstanding players. Qari Farzad was recognized as the best player of the tournament, while Ramin Haidarzada earned the title of top scorer for his impressive goal-scoring performance throughout the competition.

The futsal league was organized by Herat's Provincial Sports Directorate to promote the sport and provide local players with a platform to showcase their talent. The event was met with enthusiasm from players and spectators alike, as futsal continues to gain traction across Afghanistan.

Officials praised the teams for their sportsmanship and performance, emphasizing the importance of such tournaments in fostering young talent and strengthening the local sports community.

The successful completion of the Herat Futsal League marks another positive step in the development of futsal in Afghanistan, with expectations for more competitions in the future to further nurture young athletes and encourage sportsmanship in the region. **The Kabul Times**

Al Nassr ends in a draw without Ronaldo against Esteghlal



In the Round of 16 of the AFC Champions League, Al Nassr faced Esteghlal at Azadi Stadium in Iran.

The highly anticipated match saw Cristiano Ronaldo's team struggle to break through Esteghlal's defense, ultimately ending in a goalless draw.

Both teams displayed solid performances, creating several opportunities, but neither side managed to score. The absence of Ronaldo, who is a key player for Al Nassr, was evident as the Saudi club struggled to convert chances into goals. Despite their attacking efforts, Esteghlal also failed to find the back of the net.

With this result, Al Nassr remains in third place in the tournament standings, while Esteghlal moved up to sixth place.

The draw leaves both teams with work to do as they aim to progress further in the competition.

The match showcased intense gameplay, with both teams demonstrating tactical discipline and defensive strength. Al Nassr will now look ahead to their upcoming fixtures, hoping to secure victories and improve their position in the competition. Meanwhile, Esteghlal's rise to sixth place gives them a boost of confidence as they continue their journey in the tournament. **The Kabul Times**

Construction work on hotel, guesthouse for tourists completed in Ghor

KABUL: The Ministry of Information and Culture, in a statement, said Tuesday that construction work on a hotel and guesthouse worth 16 million Afghani has been completed in the country's western province of Ghor.



To provide tourist facilities and services for tourists in the country, the Department of Planning and Policy of the Ministry of Information and Culture has initiated hotel construction projects in Ghor, Kapisa, Nuristan, and Paktia provinces, the statement said.

The construction of hotels in Kapisa, Nuristan, and Paktia provinces will be completed and put into operation in the near future.

With the construction of these hotels, the tourism industry in the country will develop and the necessary facilities will be provided for tourists. **The Kabul Times**

How will Trump's tariffs impact Mexico and Canada's exports?

United States President Donald Trump has implemented sweeping 25 percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

The tariffs on the US's biggest trading partners took effect at 00:00 Eastern Time (05:00 GMT), causing markets across the globe to tumble.

Washington has also imposed an additional 10 percent levy on Chinese imports, adding to the 10 percent imposed last month.

Mexico and Canada are the top US trading partners, accounting for more than 30 percent of total goods traded. The value of trade among the three North American countries is more than $1.6 trillion.

Tariffs would apply to imports from Mexico and Canada of almost $918bn.

The tariffs on Mexico and Canada were among the first floated after Trump's re-election in November. He said he is imposing them to get Mexico and Canada to curb immigration and drug trafficking into the US and to balance the trade deficit between the US and its biggest trading partners.



On February 3, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau agreed to boost border security to prevent the trafficking of drugs and flow of migrants into the US in last-minute deals to postpone tariffs that had been set to come into effect on February 4. Last month, Trump also announced 25 percent tariffs on aluminium and steel imports that are to come into effect on March 12, which Mexico and Canada will also be affected by.

A tariff is a government-imposed tax on imported goods and services paid by businesses bringing them into the country.

Designed to protect domestic industries, tariffs often drive up costs for consumers by making foreign products more expensive, potentially reducing demand.

When the first Trump administration introduced tariffs in 2018, the aim was to strengthen US industries and penalise foreign exporters. However, American businesses and consumers bore the greatest burden from these tariffs rather than the foreign exporters.

The 25 percent US tariff on Mexican and Canadian exports could raise costs, reduce trade, lead to job losses, create economic uncertainty and trigger retaliatory tariffs, escalating a trade war.

aljazeera

UK won't be derailed by Ukraine aid freeze - Rayner

Sir Keir Starmer will not be "derailed" in working to end the war in Ukraine after the US paused military aid to the country, the deputy prime minister has said.



Angela Rayner said the prime minister was "laser focussed on getting peace" and would continue "dialogue" with both President Donald Trump and Europe.

She said this was "a very serious moment" in the war and stressed the UK, along with its European allies, were focused on supporting Ukraine.

The US president made the decision to freeze US military support for Ukraine on Monday, after a meeting with members of his top team.

The US is by far the biggest individual donor of military aid to Ukraine, providing weapons, equipment and financial support.

Between the start of 2022 and the end of 2024, it gave $69bn (£54.6bn) in military aid, according to German think tank the Kiel Institute. The decision came hours after Trump criticised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for saying the end of the war with Russia is "very, very far away".

The pair had an explosive spat in the Oval Office last Friday, with Zelensky leaving the White House before a proposed deal on sharing Ukrainian minerals with American companies could be signed.

On Monday, the White House announced it was "reviewing" the delivery of ammunition and other equipment to Ukraine to "ensure that it is contributing to a solution".

'Profoundly worrying'

Reacting to the decision, Rayner told the BBC the Trump administration wanted Europe to step up and had been clear about its intentions to end the war in Ukraine.

Rayner said the prime minister was also "laser-focused on getting peace".

bbc

The Kabul Times celebrates 63 years...

From P1

Mr. Nikmal stated, "In the past, The Kabul Times was only published in print, but today, thanks to your efforts, this newspaper is also available online through social media and our website. Our reports and content now reach an international audience in standard English." He further added, "We seek Almighty Allah's blessings to continue serving The Kabul Times with excellence and ensure that it remains a credible and respected newspaper." Former employee Mir Ahmad Shah shared a memory from his time at the newspaper, "I started working with The Kabul Times in 1354 (1975). At that time, we all lived like a family. The Kabul Times was not just our workplace; it was an important part of our lives. One night, as we were preparing for publication, the electricity went out unexpectedly. However, we continued the printing process using manual typewriters because the essence of journalism is to overcome obstacles and ensure that nothing hinders the flow of information." Another former employee, Hafizullah, who joined The Kabul Times in 1377 (1998), said, "Here, I learned the principles of journalism, news-writing techniques, and the intricacies of media work. The Kabul Times was an important platform for learning, gaining experience, and developing professionally." During the gathering, participants expressed hopes for further progress and improvement of The Kabul Times. Mr. Nikmal stated that they are working to align the newspaper with international media standards, enhance journalists' professional skills, and adapt to the evolving needs of modern journalism. Throughout the event, employees shared their experiences, memories, and thoughts. At the conclusion of the gathering, The Kabul Times' Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Nikmal, awarded certificates of appreciation to both former and current staff members in recognition of their dedicated service to the newspaper. **Samiullah Momand**